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FBIS 106

LUKYANOV COMMENT ON CUBA

MOSCOW DOMESTIC SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1620 2 OCT 62 L

(YURIY LUKYANOV COMMENTARY: "CONFERENCE OR CONSPIRACY").

(TEXT) TODAY AN UNOFFICIAL MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IS TAKING PLACE IN WASHINGTON, IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING. THE INITIATOR OF THIS MEETING, WHICH WILL ONLY LAST TWO DAYS, IS THE UNITED STATES. THE MAIN QUESTION TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTERS IS THE PROBLEM OF MUTUAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA. THE SPEED WITH WHICH THE MATTER WILL BE DEALT WITH IS EXPLAINED BY THE FACT THAT THE GREATER PART OF THE WORK HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED BY AMERICAN DIPLOMATS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE, DURING A WHOLE SERIES OF BILATERAL TALKS.

TO BEGIN WITH, IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THE AMERICANS HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY IN PERSUADING CERTAIN COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS ANTI-CUBAN PLOT. ONLY A FEW VENAL CENTRAL-AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS OF THE TYPE OF NICARAGUA, COSTA RICA, SALVADOR, AND GUATEMALA RESPONDED WITH READINESS TO WASHINGTON'S CALLS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE LARGEST COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT, MEXICO, BRAZIL, AND CHILE, REACTED RATHER COLDLY. ON THE CONTRARY, THEIR GOVERNMENTS EMPHASIZED ONCE MORE THE IMMUTABILITY OF THEIR POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT, OF THE POLICY WHICH THEY DEFENDED AT THE PUNTE DEL ESTE CONFERENCE IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR. THEN, AS WE KNOW, THE REFUSAL OF THE LARGEST COUNTRIES OF THE CONTINENT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON'S ANTI-CUBAN LINE LED TO THE VIRTUAL COLLAPSE OF THE CONFERENCE. MR. RUSK LEFT PUNTE DEL ESTE HAVING ONLY ACHIEVED THE CUBAN REPUBLIC'S EXPULSION FROM THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WHICH IN PRACTICE IS OF NO SIGNIFICANCE AT ALL.

THEREFORE, THE ORGANIZATION OF TODAY'S MEETING WAS CONCEIVED IN WASHINGTON PRIMARILY FOR THE PURPOSE OF WIPING OFF THE PUNTE DEL ESTE DEFEAT. AND WHAT DID THE LEADERS OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY HOPE FOR BY INSISTING AGAIN ON A MINISTERS CONFERENCE? HOW DID THEY EXPLAIN THE NEED FOR SUCH A MEETING? VIRTUALLY, NOT AT ALL, EXCEPT FOR NUMEROUS NEW UNSUBSTANTIATED ASSERTIONS ABOUT SOME SORT OF A "THREAT" ON THE PART OF CUBA.

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AS WELL AS MANY NEWSPAPERS, RALLIED TO THE ANTI-CUBAN HYSTERIA. ASSERTIONS THAT THE SITUATION IN LATIN AMERICA HAD RADICALLY CHANGED SINCE THE PUNTE DEL ESTE CONFERENCE, THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THIS CONTINENT TO URGENTLY MEET TO DISCUSS MEASURES TO AVERT THE CUBAN "THREAT" WERE ASSIDUOUSLY BANDIED IN THE AMERICAN PRESS. IN ORDER TO COW THEIR LATIN AMERICAN PARTNERS, QUITE FANTASTIC INVENTIONS, SUCH AS THE ONE THAT THE CUBANS INTEND TO ATTACK CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES, WERE GIVEN CURRENCY, OR EVEN THAT TROOPS FROM GHANA WERE BEING CONCENTRATED IN CUBA!

THIS ANTI-CUBAN HYSTERIA ITSELF MADE NO IMPRESSION UPON THE LATIN AMERICANS, ON THE CONTRARY IT GAVE RISE TO CRITICISM, TO ANXIETY FOR ONE'S SECURITY, AND, OF COURSE, ENGENDERED INCREASED SOLIDARITY WITH AND GREATER SYMPATHY FOR THE CUBAN PEOPLE. HOWEVER, AS WE KNOW, WASHINGTON'S MILITANT CALLS WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY A WHOLE SERIES OF ANTI-CUBAN PROVOCATIONS, BEGINNING WITH THE ADOPTION BY CONGRESS OF A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE RIGHT OF ARMED INTERVENTION AND ENDING WITH THE CONCENTRATION OF AMERICAN TROOPS AND SHIPS OFF THE SHORES OF CUBA. THESE ACTIONS CREATED A REAL THREAT TO PEACE AND GAVE RISE TO LEGITIMATE ANXIETY BOTH AMONG THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA AND OF OTHER CONTINENTS.

THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, IN ITS TASS STATEMENT OF 11 SEPTEMBER WARNED OF THE DANGER OF ANTI-CUBAN PROVOCATIONS. THE AMERICAN ENEMIES OF CUBA WERE CONVINCED THAT ANY UNILATERAL ATTACK OF THEIRS AGAINST CUBA WOULD ENCOUNTER DEVASTATING RESISTANCE. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, WASHINGTON'S DIPLOMATS DEVELOPED INTENSIVE ACTIVITY IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW INTO THE ANTI-CUBAN ADVENTURES THE GREATEST NUMBER OF THEIR LATIN AMERICAN PARTNERS AND ALSO THEIR ALLIES IN NATO AND OTHER MILITARY BLOCS. DURING ALL OF THE SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER, BEHIND THE STAGE AT THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, CONSULTATIONS, AND MEETINGS BETWEEN MR. RUSK AND THE MINISTERS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES TOOK PLACE. WITH REGARD TO THE LATIN AMERICANS, MR. RUSK AND HIS ASSISTANTS, FIRST OF ALL, ELUCIDATED THEIR READINESS TO SUPPORT AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON THE SEVERING OF RELATIONS WITH THE CUBAN REPUBLIC, TO DIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN A MILITARY BLOCKADE OF CUBA AND TO PREPARE FOR AN ATTACK. WHEN SUCH A READINESS WAS NOT TO BE FOUND, THE SO-CALLED "ARM TWISTING" TECHNIQUE WAS RESORTED TO: A CONGLOMERATION OF VARIOUS THREATS AND DOLLAR SOPS.

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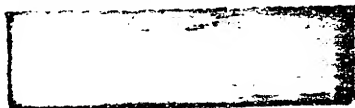
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XXX AND DOLLAR SOPS.

(CONCLUDING TEXT) WASHINGTON DEMANDED FROM ITS NATO ALLIES THAT THEY STOP TRADING WITH CUBA, FORBODE THE USE OF THEIR SHIPS FOR THE DELIVERY OF GOODS TO CUBAN PORTS. THE AMERICAN PRESS IRONICALLY DUBBED THESE EFFORTS OF RUSK AND HIS COLLEAGUES AS "ENLIGHTENING ACTIVITY." AND WHAT IS THE RESULT OF THIS ACTIVITY? SO FAR THE AMERICANS HAVE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE THE MINISTERS' PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON. AND SOME OF THEM, FOR INSTANCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF CHILE, ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WILL ONLY ACT AS OBSERVERS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ALSO NOTE THAT A NUMBER OF STATES AGREED TO TAKE PART IN THE MEETING ONLY IF IT IS UNOFFICIAL, OF A PURELY CONSULTATIVE NATURE.

OF COURSE, THIS WAS A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT FOR THE STATE DEPARTMENT, WHICH HAD INTENDED TO PRESENT THE MINISTERS WITH A PLAN FOR CONCRETE MEASURES AGAINST CUBA. BUT WASHINGTON SUFFERED EVEN GREATER DISAPPOINTMENT WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE "ENLIGHTENING ACTIVITY" WERE SUMMED UP. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT PAT SCHULZ WRITES THAT DEAN RUSK AND HIS ADVISERS HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEWS THAT IT IS HARDLY POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON DECISIVE COLLECTIVE ACTION AGAINST CUBA. BRAZIL, CHILE, AND MEXICO, THE CORRESPONDENT STATES, CONTINUE TO OPPOSE ANY SERIOUS SANCTIONS. AS WE REMEMBER, IT WAS PRECISELY THESE COUNTRIES WHICH THWARTED THE U.S. PLANS AT PUNTE DEL ESTE. IT IS CLEAR THAT (FURTHER) SANCTIONS AND DECISIONS OF THIS MEETING WILL NEVER COME TO ANYTHING.

BEARING THIS IN MIND, A RATHER CLEVER MANEUVER HAS NOW BEEN RESORTED TO IN WASHINGTON: THE CREATION OF THE SO-CALLED CARIBBEAN ALLIANCE ALONG NATO LINES. AND THE REAL (AIM) OF THIS MANEUVER IS TO COOK UP AN ANTI-CUBAN BLOC WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CONTINENT'S LARGEST COUNTRIES, COMPOSED ONLY OF THE VENAL CENTRAL AMERICAN DICTATORSHIPS. HOWEVER, JUDGING BY EVERYTHING, THIS PLAN IS DOOMED TO ABSOLUTE FAILUTE. A NUMBER OF LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE OPENLY OPPOSED THE CARIBBEAN NATO, JUSTIFIABLY CONSIDERING THAT ITS SPEARHEAD WILL BE DIRECTED NOT ONLY AGAINST CUBA BUT AGAINST ANY OTHER COUNTRY OF THE CONTINENT AS WELL.



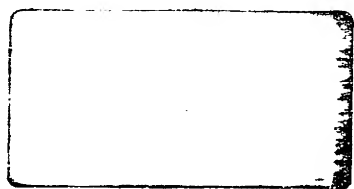
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ON THE BASIS OF THE SOMEWHAT MISERABLE RESULTS OF THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERS, THE AMERICAN PRESS TODAY RATHER SADLY ASSESSES THE PROSPECTS OF THE MINISTERS' MEETING. THE MOST THAT THE PAPERS WILL RESORT TO IS TO EXPLAIN AND DECLARE THAT THIS MEETING WILL, IN THE FIRST PLACE, BE A MANIFESTATION OF THE POLITICAL SOLIDARITY OF COUNTRIES OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. "THIS," THE NEW YORK TIMES NOTED SOME TIME AGO, "WILL PLACE THE FULL BURDEN FOR THE ADOPTION OF OTHER MEASURES AS WE KNOW THEM, THE HEAVY BURDEN OF THE AMERICAN ENEMIES OF CUBA AND CUBAN INDEPENDENCE. THEY HAVE FOUND THEMSELVES ISOLATED EVEN IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WHERE THEY WERE USED TO ALWAYS BEING THE COMPLETE MASTERS. THEREFORE, IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL RETURN TO THE TACTIC OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS AGAINST CUBA, OR, AS THE LAST RESORT, SUPPLEMENT THEM WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF A HANDFUL OF DICTATOR REGIMES. IN THAT CASE IT BECAME CLEAR THAT WASHINGTON WILL CONTINUE ITS ANTI-CUBAN INTRIGUES, WHICH ARE DANGEROUS TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE.

THEREFORE, IT WAS MOST TIMELY THAT THE DECLARATION OF THE CUBAN REPUBLIC'S COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE RESOUNDED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, A DECLARATION IN WHICH ENTIRE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROVOCATIONS DEVOLVES UPON THE AMERICAN RULING CIRCLES. IN CONTRAST TO WASHINGTON, HAVANA AGAIN DECLARES THE PEACEFULNESS OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE, PROPOSES THAT ALL DISPUTED PROBLEMS BE REGULATED BY MEANS OF NEGOTIATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THE CUBANS EXPRESS THEIR FIRM DETERMINATION TO PROTECT THEIR MOTHERLAND AND THE REVOLUTION'S GAINS AND WARN THAT CUBA IS NOT ALONE. THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT'S DECLARATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY COMPEL ALL THOSE WHO ARE TODAY ASSEMBLED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT BUILDING TO GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE MATTER, ALL THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TURN THE MINISTERS' CONFERENCE INTO A CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE CUBAN REPUBLIC.

ENDALL

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